

VZCZCXRO9039  
RR RUEHBC RUEHDBU RUEHDE RUEHDIR RUEHFL RUEHKUK RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHNP  
RUEHROV RUEHSL RUEHSR RUEHTRO  
DE RUEHVI #1201 2611158  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 181158Z SEP 09  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3330  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 001201

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/18/2024  
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [PROP](#) [PTER](#) [CASC](#) [IR](#) [AU](#)  
SUBJECT: RESULTS OF AUSTRIAN APPROACH TO IRAN ON SIX AMCITS

REF: (A) STATE 94757 (B) VIENNA 1172

Classified By: Econ/Pol Counselor Dean Yap. Reason: !.4(b) and (d).

11. (C) Further to reftels, on Sept. 18 MFA Middle East Director Friedrich Stift reported to Econ/Pol Counselor on the results of an approach by Austrian Ambassador to Iran, Michael Postl, to unidentified contacts in the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

12. (C) Postl reported the following:

-- Kian Tajbakhsh: Tajbakhsh is being held at Evin Prison and his release is "not imminent." His detention will be extended because of his failure to keep (unspecified) "promises" he made in 2007 when he was released from a previous detention. However, he will eventually be released.

-- The Three Hikers: Fattal, Bauer, and Shourd are being questioned at a Tehran prison (not Evin). They are not considered dangerous and will be released "in the foreseeable future." The Iranian MFA suggested that if the Swiss Ambassador were to make a written request for consular access it would speed resolution of the case. In addition, if he were to present the written request in person at the MFA, that would further boost prospects for a resolution. Postl indicated his willingness to make further inquiries, if desired, and would be willing to serve as a courier for letters between the three and their families/children.

-- Reza Taghavi: No information was provided.

-- Robert Levinson: The Iranians said only that Levinson "might" already have died.

13. (U) Note: Postl, with whom Embassy has worked closely on several sensitive cases in the recent past, speaks excellent Farsi and reportedly enjoys particularly good access through his wife's family to prominent Iranian circles.  
EACHO